

Montana is Bear Country

Be Bear Aware!

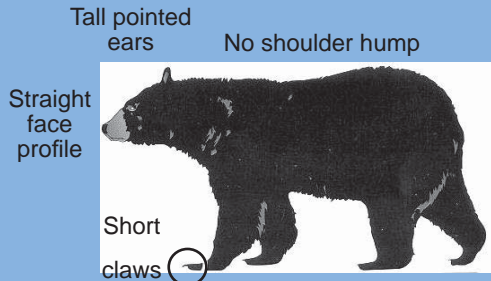
Hunters must be able to tell the difference between a grizzly and a black bear because grizzly bears cannot be legally hunted in Montana.

Three simple rules will help you make the right decision:

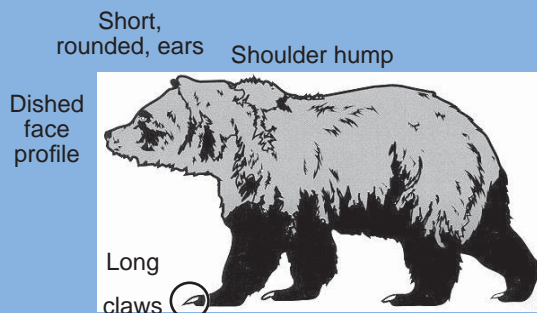
1. Learn how to identify bears.
2. Be absolutely sure of your target.
3. If in doubt, don't shoot.

Look for a combination of characteristics.

Their color and body size can be misleading!



BLACK BEAR



GRIZZLY BEAR

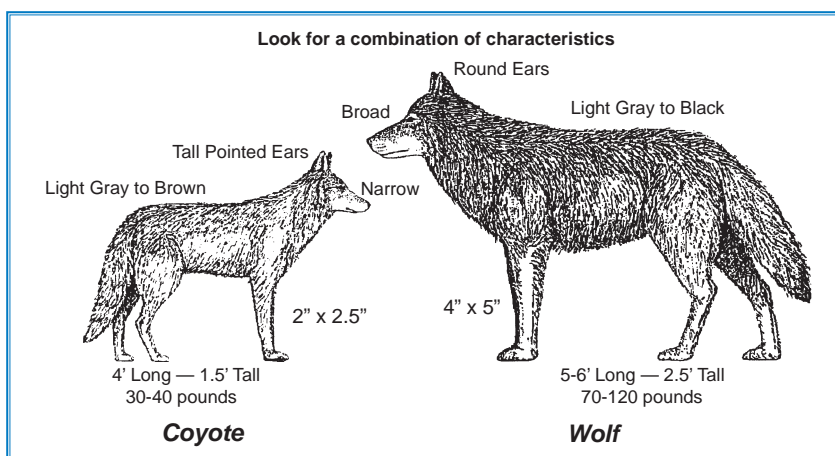
Mandatory bear identification testing is required to purchase a black bear license. Check FWP's website: fwp.mt.gov

Carry Bear Pepper Spray and Know How To Use It!

- Hunting puts you at risk of encountering a bear. Calling game and using scents may attract bears.
- If you hunt alone, let someone know about your plans. If you feel uneasy hunting alone, hunt with a partner.
- Pay attention to fresh bear sign. Communicate with others and let them know when bears have been seen and/or fresh sign observed.
- Some bears may move in the direction of a gunshot because they learned to associate the sound with a gut pile or carcass.
- The golden rule is "get the game animal out of the area as quickly as possible." The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in camp, or stored in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a bear.
- Carcasses left for a period of time require special care. Carry a colored, lightweight tarp or space blanket. Put the guts on the tarp and drag them a few hundred feet away from the carcass. Locate an observation point 200 yards (if possible) away from the carcass with a clear line of sight.
- When returning, approach the observation point carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. With binoculars study the scene from the observation point and scan the area for the carcass and any movement. If a bear is at the site and refuses to leave or the meat has been covered up with debris by a bear, report the incident to FWP.
- Do not attempt to frighten away or haze a bear, especially a grizzly.
- Bears are opportunists and change their behavior to take advantage of new food sources. Always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins, and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.
- Carry bear pepper spray. Keep the spray within reach and know how to use it. In sudden grizzly encounters bear pepper spray has proven effective. Bears sprayed in the face at close range often stop attacking.
- Mentally rehearse a worst-case scenario with encountering a bear. "If the mind has never been there before, the body does not know how to respond."
- As a last resort, if attacked, play dead. Lie face down, covering your neck and head with your hands and arms. If you have a backpack leave it on to protect your back. Stay face down, never look at the bear and remain still until the bear is gone. Many people survive bear attacks using this method.
- **Report encounters with Grizzly Bears** to FWP at 1-800-TIP-MONT, U.S. Forest Service or one of the nearest FWP bear management specialist listed below:
 - Mike Madel Choteau, MT 406-466-5100
 - Tim Manley Kalispell, MT 406-751-4584
 - Kevin Frey Bozeman, MT 406-994-3553
 - James Jonkel Missoula, MT 406-542-5508
- In an *actual emergency*, contact 911. Seeing a grizzly is not necessarily a reportable encounter or an emergency. Report encounters where the bear displayed aggressive or defensive behavior toward people, livestock or pets.

General Distribution of Bears in Montana





What Should I Know About Wolves in Montana?

Wolves and Big Game

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that it will delist wolves in the Northern Rockies. The decision was expected to take effect in late March 2008, but legal challenges may temporarily prevent delisting. Montana's wolf-hunting season and licenses will not be available until wolves are successfully delisted and litigation is resolved.

For more information about wolf management in Montana, go to FWP's website at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf> and click on Montana Wolf Management

Wolves eat deer, elk and other big game. In Montana, elk numbers in some areas have declined, due in part to wolf activity. Yet in other areas where wolves and elk interact, elk numbers are stable or increasing.

When wolves are in an area, deer and elk use their habitats differently, seeking greater cover. Hunters may need to adjust their strategies.

FWP is increasing monitoring and research efforts to learn more about how wolves and big game interact in different places, and what that means for hunters.

Montana Wolf Basics

- Pack territories can cover 200 square miles or more
- Packs range from two to 12 animals
- Wolves often travel separately or in smaller groups
- Wolves travel widely throughout their territory in the fall
- Wolves travel on roads and trails regularly

Hunters Can Help FWP Monitor Wolves

Information provided by hunters will help in the management and ultimate delisting of the wolf from the Endangered Species List. Your information helps FWP know more about wolf numbers and distribution in Montana.

Here's how to report wolves and wolf sign:

- Call the nearest FWP office
- Mail a pre-printed wolf observation postcard, available from FWP offices and license providers
- Report online: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf>



To report a dead wolf or possible illegal activity, contact either:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:
Bozeman: 582-0336
Missoula: 329-3000
Casper, Wyoming: 307-261-6365
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
1-800-TIP-MONT